

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending 31st December, 1946

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:

Medical Officer of Health: P. P. FOX, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

> Sanitary Inspector: P. H. WEBB, M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chard.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1946.

In the report for the year 1945, the attention of the Council was directed to the need for new houses to relieve the extreme shortage and the hope was expressed that houses would soon become available.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the Council and its officials, factors outside the control of the Local Authority have seriously limited the building programme. The resultant lack of housing accommodation has resulted in serious overcrowding and the retention of houses which normally would not be considered suitable for human habitation. A further result of the housing shortage is that a considerable number of men working in Chard are forced to live elsewhere. The necessary travelling to and from work is expensive to the individual in time and money, also the families living out of Chard do not develop the same corporate sense of loyalty or interest in Borough affairs. There is also a loss of potential rateable income and the diminished rateable value is a limiting factor in the development of adequate public services.

A scheme for the improved disposal of sewerage is under consideration and the implementation of this scheme will effect a considerable improvement on the present method.

The general health of the town has been satisfactory as shown by Vital Statistics.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. P. FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

SECTION A.	
Statistics and Social Conditions of the A	rea.
Area 1,030 A Registrar-General's estimate of	CICB
(a) Resident Population mid-1044	ı
(b) Average Deputation enpression	-
(b) Average ropulation appropri-	1,707
(a) Resident Population mid-1944, (b) Average Population appropriate to the calculations of	•
death rates.	
Number of inhabited houses (end of	
1944) according to Rate Book	1,428
Rateable Value £29	9,182
Sum represented by a penny rate	£123
Rateable Value £23 Sum represented by a penny rate Extracts from Vital Statistics	
Total M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate 81 45	36
	6
Live Births—Illegitimate 9 3	
Still Births—Legitimate 3 1	2
Still Births—Illegitimate 0 0	0
Deaths 68 38	30
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated	
resident nonulation	19.1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	
and Still Births)	32.7
and Still Births) Death Rate per 1,000 estimated aver-	02.1
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated aver-	14.4
age population Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Liter
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	2717
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes Nil	Nil
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis Nil No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes Nil Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of	Age
All Intants per 1.000 Live Births ·	44.4
Legitimate Infants per 1.000 Legiti-	
mate Live Births Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegiti-	49.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegiti-	10.0
mata Liva Rirthe	Nil
Dooths from Cancor (all area)	8
Deaths from Magalar (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Measies (an ages)	
Deaths from whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
mate Live Births Deaths from Cancer (all ages) Deaths from Measles (all ages) Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years	
of age)	Nil
of age)	
M	F.
Cancer 4	3
Intra-Cranial Vasc: Lesions 4	3
Heart Disease 16	5
Heart Disease 16 Other Circulatory Diseases 1	5
	0
D .	
Pneumonia 0	1
Diabetes 0	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum 0	1
Other Digestive Diseases 1	1
Nephritis 0	
Birth Injuries and Malformations 1	1
Road Traffic Accidents 1	0
Nephritis 0 Birth Injuries and Malformations 1 Road Traffic Accidents 1 Other Violent Causes 2 All Other Causes 4	0
All Other Causes 4	
Total 38	30
10tal 50	30

SECTION B.

	SECTION B.	SECTION D.
General Provision of Health Services for Area		Housing Inspections
1. 2.	 Mr. A. G. Phelps continues to assistMr. Webb in his duties as Sanitary Inspector. (a) Laboratory Facilities—No change. (b) Ambulance Facilities—No change. (c) Clinic and Treatment Centres—No new Centres have been opened. (d) Nursing in the Home—Nurse Tonge and Nurse Roylance continue their good work as District Nurses. (e) Hospitals—No change. 	1. (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts) 26 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 51 2. (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H.Con.Reg. 1925 and
	(f) War Nursery—General arrangements	1932 0 (b) Number of inspections made for
	remain unchanged. Average daily number of children during the year 35 Staff.—Warden, Four Nursery Attendants (full time) One General Assistant,	the purpose 0 (c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary 0
	One Cook, One Cleaner (part time). SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.	3. Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0
1.	Water Supply.—The town has two main supplies at high and low level. In times of drought these supplies are not wholly adequate. Both supplies are of satisfactory quality and both are chlorinated. It is proposed to supplement the High Level supply. The Yield of Well	4. Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 0 Housing Action (a) Number of defective Dwelling
	"A" (Great Crow Close) is only just enough for the present consumption. No. of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains (Est. population 4,707) 1,378 Supplied direct to houses 1,100 By means of stand pipes 278	Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 0 (b) Number of Houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action 0
	Other Supplies:—	Action Under Statutory Powers during the
	One private well supplies 23 houses. Samples of water taken from public supplies for Bacteriological examination in 1946: 5, all satisfactory.	Year. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 0
2.	Drainage and Sewerage.—Repairs only.	Proceedings Under Public Health Acts.
	A scheme is being prepared for the re- construction of the Sewerage Works. The present works are out of date and not capable of dealing with the volume of sewerage received at the works.	 (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 11 (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which Defects were remedied after serving
3.	Sanitary Inspection of the Area. Drainage Tests and Inspections: Tests 37 Inspections 23	of formal notices:— (a) By Owners 11 (b) By Local Authority (
	Houses Disinfected 16 Dairies and Cowsheds inspections 18	Proceedings Under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936
4.	Water Samples Taken 2 Schools.—No change.	Proceedings Under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 (

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.	
Milk Supply	
Number of Producers on the Register	7
Number of Distributors on the Register	
divided as follows:—	
(1) Distributors only	0
(2) Distributors who are also Pro-	
ducers	4
Meat and Other Foods	

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed Government Slaughter House

401 visits have been made to the Government Slaughter House for the purpose of Meat Inspection.

Regular visits have been made to shops.

Vehicles have been inspected. There are no Stalls.

Adulteration

Local	action	taken	 	0
Local	action	taken	 	(

SECTION F.

Infectious Diseases

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following children are now immunised: 634 School Children *(5-14 years inclusive) 90.5% 320 Children under School Age (1-4 years inclusive) 76.3%

*These figures refer only to children attending County Maintained Schools. It has not been possible to ascertain figures for children in the district attending other Schools though it is believed that the majority of these children are also immunised. Children under one year are also not included.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, one being admitted to the Isolation Hospital, South Petherton:—

	Total	Cases Admitte	ed Total
	Cases	to Isolation	Deaths
	Notified	Hospital	
Scarlet Fever	ĩ	0	0
Whooping Cough	2	0	Õ
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	Õ
Pneumonia	4	0	ŏ
Oph. Neonatorum	2	1	Ŏ
Erysipelas	1	0	Õ

Analysis of the Total Cases Notified

	Under 1 year 1-2 years 2-3 years 3-4 years 5-10 years 10-15 years 15-20 years 20-35 years 35-45 years 45-65 years
Scarlet Fever Whooping Cough Pneumonia Puerp'l Pyrexia Oph. Neonatorum Erysipelas	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality

			New Cases			Deaths				
Λge Periods		Respiratory		Respiratory	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory			
			M	. F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	М.	F.
0-1			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-15			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-25			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25— 35			2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 - 45			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4555			2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 - 65			2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and	upwa	rds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total		6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total New Cases 8. Deaths Nil.